

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An image recording apparatus comprising:
 - a mounting tray ~~for storing therein~~ a sheet-shaped recording material ~~to be recorded an image~~;
 - a laser exposing unit ~~for forming~~ an image on said recording material by laser irradiation;
 - a heat development unit using heat to ~~for heat~~ developing the recording material on which an image is formed; and
 - a transporting unit for transporting said recording material drawn out from said mounting tray to said heat development unit via said laser exposing unit,
 - wherein ~~both~~ said laser exposing unit and said heat development unit are positioned adjacent to each other on a horizontal plane ~~disposed at an position where is either upper or lower than said mounting tray is below the laser exposing unit and the heat development unit or where said mounting tray is above the laser exposing unit and the heat development unit.~~
2. (currently amended): The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a supporting unit ~~for supporting~~ said recording material in a predetermined attitude during the laser irradiation by said laser exposing unit.

3. (currently amended): The image recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said supporting unit ~~having~~ comprises:

a supporting plate ~~for~~ supporting the recording material by making plane-contact with a rear plane of said recording material; and

depressing means, ~~which is~~ located to face said supporting plate, ~~for~~ depressing said recording material against said supporting plate.

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (new): An image recording apparatus comprising:

a mounting tray storing a sheet-shaped recording material;

a laser exposing unit forming an image on said recording material by irradiation;

a heat development unit using heat to develop the recording material on which an image is formed;

a transporting unit for transporting said recording material drawn out from said mounting tray to said heat development unit via said laser exposing unit;

a supporting plate supporting the recording material in the laser exposing unit;

and

two depressing rollers depressing the recording material, pressing the recording material against the supporting plate in the laser exposing unit,

wherein said mounting tray is below the laser exposing unit and the heat development unit and wherein the supporting plate has a front and rear edges tapered bending front and rear edges of the recording material.

7. (new): The image recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said tapered edges of the supporting plate curve the recording material in a concave shape preventing vibration in an intermediate portion of the recording material.

8. (new): The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein transporting path created by the transporting unit is about 1700 mm.

9. (new): The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein processing time of the image recording apparatus is about 42 seconds.

10. (new): The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the supporting unit supports entire surface of the recording material.